

Remarks:

With regards to the Office Action mailed 02/14/2005, Examiner has rejected all original claims 1-20 based upon the following. Claims 1,4,11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hsien (2004/0206213). Claims 2-3, 5-10, 12-13, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsien in view of Smith. And, Claims 2-3, 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsien in view of Lamond.

Applicant has canceled the original claims 1-20, and is submitting herewith new claims 21-36 which are believed to overcome all the rejections identified above. New claims 21-36 now include the additional limitation wherein each end of the handle shroud is **"further formed being substantially tapered with the tapering of one end formed substantially perpendicular to the tapering of the other end."** This structural feature of the present invention handle shroud is distinct over the prior art individually, or in combination. New claims 21-36 are fully supported by the disclosure of the original specification and drawings.

With regards to Hsien, there are significant structural differences between the present invention and that of Hsien. While Hsien teaches and claims that a "twisted" or distorted wrench handle is desirable, Macor teaches and claims that a "twisted" wrench handle is not desirable. While Hsien teaches and claims the use of a "twisted" covering for a twisted wrench handle, Macor teaches and claims the use of a "nontwisted" covering for a twisted wrench handle. See Hsien on page 1, at paragraph (0021) **"The handle portion 11 has a mediate section formed with a distorted portion 12. The distorted portion 12 of handle 11 has a configuration matching a user's thumb as shown in Figure**

4, thereby facilitating the user operating the handle 11 to rotate a workpiece (not shown), such as a nut, bolt or the like." To the contrary, Macor teaches and claims that a distorted or twisted wrench handle is undesirable and should be covered with a nontwisted shroud so as to improve user comfort and ergonomics. See Macor on page 3, at line 1 **"However, the twisted handle configuration creates other disadvantages including a reduction in user comfort and ergonomics around the twisted area of the wrench. In addition, applicant believes that a user may perceive a twisted double-ended wrench as a wrench which is damaged or rejected by the manufacturer."** Also, see Macor on page 3, at line 25 **"It is an important objective of the present invention described above, that a handle shroud be formed to substantially cover and structurally change a double-ended twisted wrench at its twisted area, so as to improve user comfort and ergonomics."** Yet further, see Macor on page 4, at line 3 **"It is an important objective of the present invention described above, that the handle shroud be formed to substantially cover and structurally change a double-ended twisted wrench at its twisted area, so as to improve the appearance of the twisted wrench."**

In addition to the above, the present invention has another significant structural feature that further differentiates it from that of Hsien. In the left side view of the present invention wrench and shroud shown in Figure 9 it is easy to see that shroud 57 is formed tapered in only one direction towards wrench head 43 as shown. And, in the top plan view thereof shown in Figure 10, it is easy to see that shroud 57 is formed tapered in only one direction towards the opposite wrench head 49 as shown. **This is because the longitudinal tapering of one end of the present invention handle shroud is formed substantially**

perpendicular to the longitudinal tapering of the other end. Therefore with regards to the above, there are significant non-obvious structural differences between the present invention and that of Hsien. Furthermore, the Hsien invention actually teaches (one skilled in the art) away from the present invention and the objectives set forth by the applicant.

With regards to the references of both Smith and Lamond together, neither teach, claim, or render obvious a wrench shroud or handle **"comprising an elongated opening at each end thereof with each elongated opening having a predetermined direction of elongation" and "the direction of elongation of one opening being substantially perpendicular to the direction of elongation of the other opening."** Furthermore, Smith and/or Lamond do not teach, claim, or render obvious a wrench shroud or handle wherein **"each end is further formed being substantially tapered with the tapering of one end formed substantially perpendicular to the tapering of the other end."** Accordingly, there are significant non-obvious structural differences between the present invention and that of Smith and/or Lamond.

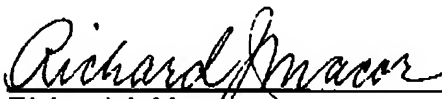
In summary regarding the above, it is believed that the present invention handle shroud is structurally distinct over the prior art of Hsien, Smith and Lamond individually, or in combination.

In view of the above, it is believed that new claims 21-36 should be allowable, and an expeditious allowance of the patent thereto is earnestly solicited. Applicant wishes to respectfully acknowledge and thank the Examiner for her assistance via telephone on February 17 and 18, 2005, which has caused the applicant to respond in a way that is believed to have advanced this case.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Richard J. Macor
26 Alpaugh Drive
Asbury, NJ 08802-1213
Phone (908) 479-6011
FAX (908) 479-6645

**Via Facsimile Only to
(703) 872-9306**

Marked drawings attached